

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 117157

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, ETEL, MARR

SUBJECT: NATO ATTENDANCE AT 1977 DOD-AOC ELECTRONIC
WARFARE SYMPOSIUM

REF: USNATO 1404

1. WE SHARE MISSION CONCERN THAT EXCLUSION OF NATO
REPRESENTATION FROM ANNUAL DOD/AOC (ASSOCIATION OF OLD
CROWS) EW SYMPOSIUM MIGHT HAVE ADVERSE AFFECT ON NATO
EFFORTS IN THIS IMPORTANT FIELD (REFTEL). HOWEVER, WHAT IS
SEEN HERE AS A DECLINE IN PARTICIPATION BY OUR ALLIES IN
RECENT AOC SYMPOSIUMS SUGGESTS THAT THIS FORUM IS NOT
ADEQUATELY MEETING NATO NEEDS. WE HAD ONLY ONE PAPER
FROM A NATO NATION OTHER THAN THE U.S. IN THE LAST
PROCEEDINGS. NONETHELESS, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT SOME
TYPE OF GOVERNMENT-INDUSTRY PROGRAM BE DEVELOPED TO
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ADDRESS EFFECTIVELY URGENT NATO ELECTRONIC WARFARE (EW)
CONCERNS.

2. IT WOULD BE MOST BENEFICIAL IN THIS REGARD IF AN EW
SYMPOSIUM COULD BE HELD IN EUROPE, HOSTED BY AN APPRO-
PRIATE NATO BODY/COMMAND, AND TAILORED TO NATO ISSUES.
SUCH A NATO SYMPOSIUM COULD PROVIDE A CLASSIFIED FORUM

FOR KEY GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES TO ADDRESS NATO'S EW DEFICIENCIES AND THE WIDE RANGE OF EW PROBLEMS FACING THE NATO ALLIANCE. THIS IS IN CONTRAST TO THE 1977 AOC SYMPOSIUM WHICH WILL CONCENTRATE ON PARTICULAR U.S. PROBLEMS, INCLUDING STRATEGIC AND NATIONAL ACTIVITIES NOT OF DIRECT INTEREST TO NATO. IN A NATO SYMPOSIUM, THE ELECTRONIC INDUSTRIES AND MILITARY FORCES OF NATO NATIONS WOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DIRECTLY ADDRESS THEIR UNIQUE PROBLEMS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OPERATIONAL EW REQUIREMENTS OF THE ALLIANCE.

3. THE AOC HAS TOLD US IT IS WILLING TO PARTICIPATE AND PROVIDE ORGANIZATIONAL AND SUBSTANTIVE EXPERTISE TO DEVELOP A SYMPOSIUM WHICH COULD BE SPONSORED BY AN APPROPRIATE NATO BODY/COMMAND IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE AOC. DOD WOULD STRONGLY SUPPORT SUCH AN UNDERTAKING.

4. MISSION COMMENTS ON A NATO EW SYMPOSIUM AS DESCRIBED ABOVE ARE INVITED. IF YOU CONCUR THAT IT WOULD BE OF VALUE, REQUEST YOU MAKE APPROPRIATE NOTIFICATIONS TO EFFECT THAT INVITATIONS WILL NOT BE ISSUED TO NATO FOR 1977 DOD/AOC EW SYMPOSIUM. YOU SHOULD CONCURRENTLY PROPOSE NATO EW SYMPOSIUM IN EUROPE, POINTING OUT THAT WE BELIEVE SUCH A MEETING, IF PROPERLY ORGANIZED, WOULD BE MORE USEFUL FROM NATO VANTAGE POINT THAN THIS YEAR'S DOD/AOC SYMPOSIUM. LATTER, AS NOTED ABOVE, WILL NOT FOCUS ON PROBLEMS OF DIRECT INTEREST TO THE ALLIANCE AND FACT THAT IT TAKES PLACE IN U.S. MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR QUALIFIED EXPERTS FROM EUROPE TO ATTEND.
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FYI - EUROPEAN ATTENDANCE AT PAST SYMPOSIA HAS BEEN IN LARGE PART LOCAL DEFENSE ATTACHES WHO AS A GENERAL RULE DO NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT EXPERTISE TO CONTRIBUTE TO PROCEEDINGS. END FYI. YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT WE AND THE AOC WOULD BE PREPARED TO DO ALL WE COULD TO MAKE SUCH A NATO SYMPOSIUM A SUCCESS.

5. YOU SHOULD KEEP WASHINGTON ADVISED OF ALLIED REACTIONS.

6. FYI. ABOVE APPROACH TO EW SYMPOSIUM IS CONSISTENT WITH OUR TREATMENT OF EW MATTERS IN CONTEXT OF DEVELOPMENT OF LONG TERM DEFENSE PLAN FOR NATO. YOU SHOULD MAKE THIS POINT TO ALLIES AND NATO OFFICIALS IF ASKED. END FYI.
CHRISTOPHER

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